GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5795
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
TOXIC TEA
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;KAMAL NATH;RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Chai Ke Sath Jahrile Rasayan Ki Chuskiyan` appearing in Navbharat Times dated February 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of tea companies found involved in it; and

(e) the measures being taken to check this adulteration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press report states that Central Government has requested the State Governments to keep a strict vigil on the sale of tea as it is feared that spurious tea is finding its way in the market which is harmful to human health.

(c) & (d) Information received from the State Food Authorities in Andhra Pradesh indicates the seizure of 54,000 Kgs of spurious tea packed in 770 Gunny bags from 4 Rice Mills in West Godavari Distt, Andhra Pradesh.The samples of the seized stocks were found to contain cashew husk and foreign matter.

(e) All the State/UT Governments have been advised to maintain a strict vigil on the quality of tea being sold in the country and to take action as per provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.